

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 CEQ-01 NSF-01
NAS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2828
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3357

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SO, EO, NL
SUBJECT: REACTION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES TO ORLOV TRIAL

REF: STATE 150672

1. POST HAS DISCOVERED ONLY ONE SPECIFIC ACTION BY SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNITY IN NETHERLANDS ABOUT ORLOV BUT THERE HAS BEEN
ACTIVITY AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AS WELL AS INDIG-
NATION HERE ABOUT THE CASE COIT IN SCIENTIFIC-ACADEMIC CIRCLES
AND IN DUTCH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. DESPITE SMALL-SIZED
ACTION TILL NOW IT COULD MUSHROOM.

2. INFORMATION HERE MAINLY FROM THE USSR COORDINATION GROUP
OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NETHERLANDS BUT ALSO FROM HUMAN RIGHTS
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ACTIVISTS.

3. LAST FEBRUARY 17 THE BOARD OF THE SUBFACULTY FOR PHYSICS
AND ASTRONOMY TO THE PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY DIVISIONS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN SENT A LETTER TO THE PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
PHYSICS DIVISIONS, ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, MOSCOW, USSR. IT
EXPRESSED THE "PROFOUND CONCERN OF LEIDEN UNIVERSITY PHYSICISTS

AND ASTRONOMERS FOR PROF. Y.F. ORLOV."

4. THE THRUST OF THE ONE-PAGE LETTER, SIGNED BY THE SIX MEMBERS OF THE SUBFACULTY BOARD (PROF. DR. K.W. TACONIS, CHAIRMAN) WAS IN THE THREE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

5. "FROM CONTACTS WITH SOVIET COLLEAGUES AND FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN THE NETHERLANDS WE KNOW THAT PROF. ORLOV HAS ACTIVELY PROMOTED THE KNOWLEDGE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. AS SCIENTISTS WHO MAINTAIN MANY INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AND WHO KNOW THE GREAT VALUE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION IN SCIENCE AND IN ALL CULTURAL ENDEAVOURS, WE SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AMONG ALL PEOPLES. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT PROF. YURI ORLOV'S ACTIVITIES, PROMOTING THESE PRINCIPLES, ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE, OF SCIENCE AND CULTURE IN YOUR COUNTRY AND THEREFORE DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT AND OURS.

6. WE STRONGLY URGE THE U.S.S.R. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO HELP PROF. ORLOV IN HIS STRUGGLE FOR FREE COMMUNICATION AND FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. WE FEEL BOUND TO SUPPORT A COLLEAGUE WHOSE NOBLE MOTIVES AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS APPARENTLY ARE CONSTRUED IN YOUR COUNTRY AS ANTI-SOVIET, WHILE TO US THAT WORK SEEMS TRULY PATRIOTIC. WE REQUEST YOUR URGENT ATTENTION TO THE TRIAL WHICH NOW THREATENS TO END PROF. ORLOV'S NORMAL LIFE AND TO WASTE HIS TALENTS IN IMPRISONMENT.
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7. SCIENCE AND CULTURE CAN FLOURISH IN THE U.S.S.R. AND ELSEWHERE, ONLY IF THE BASIC RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE, SCIENTISTS INCLUDED, ARE PROTECTED AND GUARDED. PLEASE HELP TO GUARD ORLOV'S HUMAN RIGHTS."

8. ANOTHER ITEM IS THAT RECENTLY A PROMINENT SOVIET SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR BOGOLJUBOV, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS AT DUBNA IN THE U.S.S.R., GAVE A SERIES OF LECTURES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM. AS THIS WAS SHORTLY AFTER ORLOV'S TRIAL AND CONVICTION HIS DUTCH HOSTS AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF LEIDEN AND UTRECHT TOLD PROF. BOGOLJUBOV IN PRIVATE AND PUBLICLY BEFORE INTRODUCING HIM TO HIS LECTURE AUDIENCES THAT "THEY WERE DISMAYED AT THE TREATMENT AND SENTENCES AGAINST ORLOV AND HIS FELLOW SOVIET SCIENTISTS." IN AMSTERDAM THIS PROTEST WAS ONLY SAID PRIVATELY TO BOGOLJUBOV, AS BY THEN HIS HOSTS THOUGHT THEY HAD PILLORIED HIM SUFFICIENTLY.

9. EMBASSY CAN FIND LITTLE POSITIVE INFORMATION IN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ABOUT A PETITION IN SWITZERLAND AND GERMANY TO BRING ORLOV TO THE CERN IN GENEVA BUT DUTCH SCIENTISTS ARE WORKING UP A LETTER TO THE PRESIDUM OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN THE NETHERLANDS. ALSO, A DUTCH SCIENTIST NAMED PROFESSOR VELDMAN (REGRET INABILITY TO OBTAIN HIS FIRST NAME ON SHORT NOTICE) WHO WAS TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE AT DUBNA DECIDED NOT TO GO BECAUSE OF ORLOV. HE FOLLOWED THE EXAMPLE OF SEVERAL FRENCH SCIENTISTS.

10. IT WOULD PERHAPS BE POSSIBLE FOR EMBASSY TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BUT NOT INSIDE REFTEL DEADLINE.

11. POST CAN SUPPLY LIST OF NAMES OF DUTCH SCIENTISTS ACTIVE IN THIS AREA IF REQUIRED FOR U.S. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. EMBASSY REQUESTS COPIES OF ANY LETTERS OR PETITIONS OR ACCOUNTS OF OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN BY U.S. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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OR OTHER AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC GROUPS.
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